

THE WEATHER FORECAST.  
Fair and colder to-day; to-morrow fair  
and continued cold; west winds.  
Highest temperature yesterday, 40; lowest, 31.  
Detailed weather, mail and marine reports on page 15.



IT SHINES FOR ALL

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# TEUTONIC POWERS ASK FOR PEACE PARLEY WITH ALLIES; SURE OF VICTORY, HOPE TO AVOID NEEDLESS BLOODSHED; GERMAN CHANCELLOR SEEKS AID OF 3 NEUTRAL NATIONS

## STOCKS TUMBLE ON PEACE NEWS

Transactions for Day Total 2,358,000 Shares and \$5,052,000 in Bonds.

## "WAR BRIDES" DROP FAST

Selling Wave in Last Hour Causes Extreme Confusion—Ralls Hold Well.

The biggest day in stocks since the war began followed the news of the German Chancellor's peace proposals. So far as Stock Exchange reports were able to record the transactions the turnover was 2,358,000 shares, and \$5,052,000 in bonds. Actually the total transactions were much greater, for odd lots were not taken into the reckoning, and in the busy times of the session transactions were made with extreme rapidity that it was a physical impossibility to make records of them.

The Stock Exchange has had many two million share days since the war began, but almost without exception these have been days of buoyant upward markets, with the war stocks predominating and all bull traders making paper profits excessively. Yesterday's market told the reverse of that story. It was altogether the widest break in stocks in the last two years.

News of the German Chancellor's proposals was flashed on the tickers about half an hour after the market opened. In the first half hour of trading there had been little excitement, some of the industrial shares ruling steady. Heavy selling by professionals on the floor was the first sign of what was to happen. The selling was followed immediately by liquidating orders from the commission houses, and soon the market was seething.

Confusion in Last Hour.

This selling movement continued until noon, by which time more than a million shares had changed hands. It then occurred to a great many speculators that the German proposals might be more of a diplomatic ploy than a serious proposition and there was much covering by short contracts and a cessation of the frightened selling of the morning. In the noon hour the market became steadier and more orderly and recoveries were general.

A second wave of selling and one which swept the market in the afternoon, followed the news of the nature of the German peace proposals. It seemed then to the great majority of speculators that the proposals had at least sufficient reasoning in them to produce counter proposals from the Allies. The war stocks broke widely but the selling of the afternoon was not so general. Declines which in the morning had seemed great were small by comparison. There were trifling recoveries in many issues at the close, but no one attributed these to anything more consequential than short covering, and the closing sales in most of the active shares were at or little above the low prices of the day.

The railroad shares held up well, although, of course, the necessity of protecting the protection of margins in other stocks affected them.

Decline Shown in Table.

Just what happened to a score of industrial stocks active in the speculation of the last two years is shown by the following table giving the high price paid for the stock, the low price yesterday, Monday's closing, the gross decline from the high price and the decline yesterday:

## BERLIN MADE OFFER TO BELGIUM WITH THREAT

Restoration of Country Promised Only if End of War Is Urged at Once.

LONDON, Dec. 12 (Wednesday).—The Daily Telegraph to-day prints prominently the following:  
"We have received information from an unimpeachable source that the Central Powers recently offered peace to Belgium on the following terms: 'The Belgians are invited to insist upon immediate peace. In return for this their country will be restored to them, its independence guaranteed and financial assistance given for its economic rehabilitation.'"

In the event of these terms being refused the intimation has been given to Belgium that her very existence—her monuments, her public buildings and even her towns—is threatened.

## BERLIN ASKS HELP FROM THE VATICAN

Pope Told Germany Realizes Europe's Sad Future if War Continues.

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—The note presented by Dr. von Muller, German Minister to the Vatican, to Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, follows:  
"I have the honor to send to your Eminence a copy of the declaration which the Imperial Government to-day, by the good offices of the Pope, entered into with the protection of German interests in the countries with which the German Empire is in a state of war, transmits to these States and which the Imperial Government declares itself ready to enter into peace negotiations. The Austro-Hungarian, Turkish and Bulgarian governments also have sent similar notes."

The reasons which prompted Germany and her allies to take this step are manifold. The last two years and a half have been devastating the European continent. Unlimited treasures of civilization have been destroyed. Extensive areas have been soaked with blood. Millions of brave soldiers have fallen in battle and millions have returned home as invalids. Grief and sorrow fill almost every household. The heroic armies of the Central Powers have been withdrawn from the production of religion and civilization, which was trying to solve solutions for social problems and was the home of the intellectual and all peaceful labor, now resembles an immense war camp in which the achievements and works of many decades are doomed to annihilation.

"Germany is carrying on a war of defense against her enemies, which aim at her destruction. She fights to defend the integrity of her frontiers and the liberty of the German nation, for the right which she claims to develop her intellectual and economic life on an equal footing with other nations. All the efforts of her enemies are united to destroy her. The Central Powers, which protect the frontiers of their countries, strengthened by the certainty that the enemy shall never pierce them."

"Those fighting on the front which they are supported by the whole nation, which is inspired by love for its country and is ready for the greatest sacrifice, believes, solemnly repeats what the Chancellor already has declared a year ago, that Germany is ready to give peace to the world by setting before the whole world the question whether or no it is possible to find a basis for an understanding."

"Since the first day of the pontifical reign his Holiness the Pope has unswervingly demonstrated, in the most generous fashion, his solicitude for the innumerable victims of this war. He has alleviated the sufferings and ameliorated the fate of thousands of men injured by this catastrophe. Inspired by the exalted ideas of his ministry, his Holiness has seized every opportunity in the interest of humanity to end so sanguinary a war."

"The Imperial Government is firmly confident that the initiative of the four Powers will find friendly welcome on the part of his Holiness and that the work of peace can count upon the precious support of the Holy See."

## KILLS 2 CHILDREN AND SELF.

Secretary of Naval Training Ship Uses Magazine Pistol.

Gustave Blum, 35, secretary of the United States naval training ship Granite State, early this morning shot and killed his two children, John, aged 10, and Elsie, aged 4 years, at his home at 139 Morris avenue, Dunton, Richmond Hill, L. I.

Blum committed the act in the bedroom of his home, using a magazine pistol. He then turned the weapon upon himself and committed suicide. All three were dead when Dr. Harber arrived with an ambulance from St. Mary's Hospital.

The diplomatic representatives of the Entente Allies are sceptical and expect

## WILSON AWAITS PROPOSAL TEXT

Unofficial View Is That It Provides Opening Wedge for Peace Talk.

## DANGER OF REJECTION

Possibility, However, That Terms of the Entente May Be Revealed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Out of the gloom caused by the continuance of the devastating war in Europe, has come the first real ray of hope in the peace proposals made to-day in the Reichstag by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, and communicated through neutral Governments to the enemies of the Central Powers.

Regardless of whether or not Germany's proposal is acceptable—and nobody believes it will be in its present form—the feeling in official circles in Washington is one of hope that this may be the entering wedge for a discussion of peace. Once the discussion is initiated it is the opinion that it will sooner or later lead to a termination of hostilities. At any rate, this is the first definite move by any of the belligerents in the direction of peace and marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the conflict.

Proposal Not Yet Received.

Germany's proposal has not been received here up to a late hour to-night. It was handed to Joseph C. Grew, the American Charge d'Affaires in Berlin, to be sent here for transmission to Great Britain, France, Russia, Belgium and Rumania, whose interests the United States government represents. Although official word is still lacking owing to the slowness of the cable, it is understood that identical notes are being sent by the other governments of the Central Powers to their enemies.

It is the understanding that this Government has been asked merely to forward Germany's proposal or, in other words, as Secretary Lansing described it, "to act as a messenger" in the matter.

Word from Mr. Grew was anxiously awaited in the State Department to-night and instructions had been left to inform Secretary Lansing at once so that he could communicate with the White House. The night will be laid before the President the first thing in the morning.

The question that is agitating official circles is whether the German proposal should take advantage of Germany's peace proposal to offer in a separate communication its good offices as mediator in the discussion of peace. It is believed that the German proposal would be desirable and express its earnest hope that it could be brought about, with Germany's offer forming a basis of negotiations.

Solely for the President.

All eyes to-night are turned toward the White House. It is the feeling that the President should deal with the exact nature of the communication and he decide upon the course to follow. He is generally recognized as an extremely delicate situation. The only statement forthcoming to-night from the White House is such as would be giving the most serious consideration to the method to be pursued.

Germany's move to end the war was discussed at this afternoon's Cabinet meeting, but only in an informal way, as up to that time only the most fragmentary press despatches had been received. Inasmuch as his advice has been continually sought by the President, and furthermore, he has visited Great Britain and Germany during the war and is the leading statesman of both countries.

Desire to Be Peacemaker.

It has long been known that the President above all other things has a desire to be a peacemaker. But he has taken the position all along that until a proper opportunity arrives his hands are tied. It is recognized that the White House that there is an intense feeling on this subject in this country. The President has been urged by many leading citizens in the last few months to make some move toward peace, but having made an offer of mediation at the beginning of the war, he has felt that in the absence of any request for him to take the initiative, and his determination to see for himself everything that happens often leads him into positions of considerable risk. His men would follow him anywhere.

## "WANTS CARTE BLANCHE"

Amsterdam Says German Offer Has Singular Purpose Back of It.

Amsterdam, Dec. 12.—The Telegram, commenting on the German peace offer, says:  
"It is meant partly to convince the armies and peoples of the Central Powers that peace is impossible because the Entente rejects all the proposals and therefore the supreme command must be given carte blanche in the prosecution of all further realistic measures. Partly it is intended to persuade neutrals to grant Germany carte blanche in all the frightful necessities to produce peace, which is possible only with further German victories."

## 1,000 KILLED IN HAMBURG RIOT

London "Daily Express" Hears of Outbreak Quelled by Troops.

LONDON, Dec. 13 (Wednesday).—The Express claims to have reliable information that the most serious riots took place in Hamburg on December 7, 8 and 9. It says that it is estimated that more than 20,000 people participated in the rioting and that a thousand were wounded or killed.

According to this story the local authorities were unable to quell the disturbance and it was necessary to send troops to Hamburg on special trains from Berlin. There is no confirmation of this story from any other source.

## BASIC FEATURES OF PROPOSAL BY GERMANY

All Territory Conquered on Either Side to Be Given Up Except Serbia, Poland and Lithuania—Last Two as Independent Kingdoms.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Though no definite word has reached the German Embassy here with respect to the peace terms which Germany offers, it is understood on high authority close to the embassy that they are to be regarded as incorporating:  
1. Complete restoration of Belgium.  
2. Evacuation by Germany of all territory captured in northern France.  
3. Establishment of Poland and Lithuania as independent kingdoms.  
4. Restoration to Austria of territory captured by Italy in the neighborhood of the Adriatic Sea.  
5. Restoration to Germany of all her colonial possessions.  
6. Retention of Constantinople by Turkey.  
7. Retention of Serbia by Austria-Hungary and the restoration to Bulgaria of all territory lost by that country in the second Balkan war.

(Though these terms are not regarded in German circles as an irreducible minimum, they are viewed as embodying a fair basis for discussion.)

## 2 ARMIES GIVEN TO GEN. NIVELLE OUTLINES MOVE

Verdun Defender Gets Forces Bernstorff Believes Entente Will Now Reveal What It Is Fighting For.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Gen. Nivelle, commander of the French troops at Verdun, has been appointed commander in chief of the armies of the north and northeast. The official announcement of this appointment says it is the first step toward the reorganization of the higher command.

"I am gratified by the steps taken by my Government and I think that even if they should not result in peace they at least are proof that Germany, even in the height of a victorious campaign, has no desire to prolong human war and suffering."

"Germany wants peace and does not want conquest. I cannot say anything about terms for the reason that I do not know what they may be."

The Ambassador is understood to regard the possibility of a discussion of peace by the belligerents as the all important point involved in the proposal. He does not believe that the Entente will consider an immediate cessation of hostilities. The most he hopes for is that they will be willing to discuss the matter. He believes that public opinion, not only in Germany but in the countries of the Entente, will sanction giving consideration to peace discussion.

Should the Entente decline to consider Germany's proposal the Ambassador believes they will not least duty bound to inform the world what they are fighting for. His position is that Germany has now made it clear that conquest is not the object of prolongation of the war so far as Germany is concerned, and that Great Britain and her allies must either admit that they are fighting to "crush Germany" or consider the offer to stop fighting.

And if the Entente goes on record as continuing the war to crush "Prussian militarism"—which to the Ambassador means the German nation—he believes that neutral nations as well as belligerents should fully understand it.

## WHEAT PRICES BREAK.

Peace News Causes Wild Excitement in Chicago Pit.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—Wheat values plunged widely downward twice to-day, first, on account of Germany's reported overtures for peace, and secondly, owing to the breaking of a long drought. A bushel of wheat was accompanied by transactions amounting to millions of bushels.

Closing quotations of the day were at nearly the bottom level touched, with the market as a whole 4 1/2 to 10 1/2 under yesterday's finish and with May at 16 1/2 to 16 3/4, and July at 14 1/2 to 14 3/4. Excitement in the pit reached the acme in the last half hour, when attention was concentrated on Washington advices said to emanate from the German Embassy and the German Reichstag.

It was not until hours later that the fact was known in Chicago that definite terms of peace had not been detailed in Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech to the Reichstag.

Corn and oats felt the effects of the peace news to a much less extent than wheat.

## PEACE REMOTE, LONDON VIEW

Germany's Move Regarded as a Dramatic Stroke Lacking Sincerity.

## OFFICIALS ARE RETICENT

Press and Public Are Inclined to Be Sceptical of the Situation.

LONDON, Dec. 13 (Wednesday).—A strong current of public sentiment opposed to the German peace proposal was evident in the first expressions available last night both from public men and the British press, although these were without knowledge of any definite terms and without any word from high authoritative sources indicating the attitude of the Government.

Those in close association with the new Government took the view that the proposals would prove entirely unacceptable, mainly because they were not likely to touch what the ruling authorities regard as the most essential basis of any peace, namely, such guarantees against German militarism as will permit England, France and their allies to demolish their vast armaments, reduce their enormous military expenses and return to lasting conditions of peace.

The only information of the details before reports was from Berlin and in the absence of some tangible official position British officials were disposed to maintain reserve. It was noticeable that the proposal had not created any great impression among the average Londoners. There was little talk in the hotels or other public places, and this discussion was far less animated than in the recent ministerial crisis.

Government Circles Aloof.

Government circles also held aloof from any discussion, with an evident desire to learn more of the details before committing the new Administration to a definite course of action. The Foreign Office would make no comment in the absence of the most direct indication that the British attitude up to the present was embodied in the declarations made from time to time by the former Premier, Viscount Grey, and that any new proposals would have to be considered by all the Entente Allies before a definite attitude was possible.

Some early expressions, indicating the general drift of sentiment, were as follows:  
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: "We want to know more about the terms, for without them the Imperial Government's suggestion of peace is preposterous and ridiculous. We, too, are conscious of victory, and his boasts will be laughed at."

The Marquis of Londonderry: "We have got to win the war. Peace at the present time would be disastrous to the nation and the empire. It is only a question of time, and we will win out absolutely."

## Special Note Sent to Pope Benedict Embodies Text of Overtures Through American, Spanish, and Swiss Ambassadors in Berlin—Sees War Folly

## SPEECH IN THE REICHSTAG DEVOID OF HATE FOR FOES

"Our Aims Are Not to Shatter or to Annihilate Our Adversaries," Says Kaiser's Spokesman—Bulgaria, Austria-Hungary and Turkey Make Similar Proposals to Entente

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg announced to the Reichstag that Germany and her allies to-day proposed to enter forthwith into peace negotiations. The propositions which they will bring forward are, according to the Chancellor, appropriate for the establishment of a lasting peace.

The Austrian, Turkish and Bulgarian Governments are making similar proposals. These proposals have been transmitted also to the Vatican. The following announcement was given out to-day by the semi-official Overseas News Agency:

"The Chancellor this morning received one after another the representatives of the United States of America and Spain and Switzerland, that is, of the States protecting German interests in hostile foreign countries. The Chancellor transmitted to them a note and asked them to bring it to the knowledge of the hostile Governments. The note will be read to-day in the Reichstag by the Chancellor."

"In the note the four allied (Central) Powers propose to enter forthwith on peace negotiations. The propositions which they bring for such negotiations are, according to their firm belief, appropriate for the establishment of a lasting peace."

"The governments at Vienna, Constantinople and Sofia transmitted identical notes and also communicated with the Holy See and all other neutral powers."

## Text of Peace Note to Entente Powers.

Following is the text of the note addressed by Germany and her allies to the hostile governments:

"In the midst of the most terrific war ever experienced in history, which has been raging for the last two years and a half over a large part of the world—a catastrophe which thousands of years of common civilization was unable to prevent and which injures the most precious achievements of humanity, our aims are not to shatter or annihilate our adversaries. In spite of our consciousness of our military and economic strength and our readiness to continue the war (which has been forced upon us) until the bitter end if necessary; at the same time prompted by the desire to avoid further bloodshed and make an end to the atrocities of war, the four allied Powers propose to enter forthwith into peace negotiations."

"The propositions which they bring forward for such negotiations and which have for their object a guarantee of the existence of the honor and liberty of evolution for their nations are, according to their firm belief, an appropriate basis for the establishment of a lasting peace."

## Defending Justice and Liberty.

"The four allied powers have been obliged to take up arms to defend justice and the liberty of national evolution. The glorious deeds of our armies have in no way altered their purpose. We have always maintained the firm belief that our own rights and justified claims in no way control the rights of these nations."

"The spiritual and material progress which were the pride of Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century are threatened with ruin. Germany and her allies, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, gave proof of their unconquerable strength in this struggle. They gained gigantic advantages over adversaries superior in number and war material. Our lines stand unshaken against ever repeated attempts made by armies."

"The last attack in the Balkans has been rapidly and victoriously overcome. The most recent events have demonstrated that further continuance of the war will not result in breaking the resistance of our forces, and the whole situation with regard to our troops justifies our expectation of further successes."

"If in spite of this offer of peace and reconciliation the struggle should go on, the four allied powers are resolved to continue to a victorious end, but they disclaim responsibility for this before humanity and history. The Imperial Government, through the good offices of Your Excellency, ask the government of (there is inserted the name of the neutral power addressed in each instance) to bring this communication to the knowledge of the government of (there are inserted the names of the belligerents)."

## Chancellor in Side Remarks.

never seen before. God will be the Judge. We can proceed upon our way."

The Chancellor outlined the extraordinary political situation and then, insisting upon the achievements of the Central Powers, said:

"The Reichstag had not been adjourned for a long period, but unfortunately was left to the discretion of the president as to the day of the next meeting. This decision was caused by the hope that soon happy events in the field would be recorded, a hope fulfilled quicker almost than expected. I shall be brief, for action speak for themselves."

## Rumania's Failure in East.

The Chancellor said Rumania had entered the war in order to roll up the German positions in the east and those of Germany's allies. At the same time the grand offensive on the Somme had as its object to pierce the German western front and the renewed Italian attacks were intended to paralyze Austria-Hungary.

"The situation was serious," the Chancellor continued, "but with God's help our troops shaped conditions so as to give us security which not only is complete but still more so than ever before. The western front stands. Not only does it stand, but in spite of the Rumanian campaign it is fitted out with larger reserves of men and material than it had been formerly."

## God Will Be the Judge.

"In the faithful hour we took a fateful decision. It has been saturated with the blood of hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers who gave their lives for the safety of their home. Human will and human understanding are unable to reach to the extreme and last questions in this struggle of nations, which has unveiled all the terrors of earthly life, but also the grandeur of human courage and human will in ways

## Precautions Against Onrush.

The most effective precautions have been taken against all Italian diversions. And while on the Somme and on the Carso the drum fire resounded while the Russian launched troops against the

Net Gains Since 1914.

A table showing some twenty stocks at their low prices on the day the exchange closed in 1914 and their closing prices yesterday, with net gains, follows:

Stock	Low Price	Yesterday's Price	Net Gain
Alcoa	100	125	25
Am. Can.	100	125	25
Am. Oil	100	125	25
Am. Ry.	100	125	25
Am. Sm.	100	125	25
Am. Tel.	100	125	25
Am. Trans.	100	125	25
Am. Wire	100	125	25
Am. Zinc	100	125	25
Am. Iron	100	125	25
Am. Steel	100	125	25
Am. Copper	100	125	25
Am. Lead	100	125	25
Am. Tin	100	125	25
Am. Silver	100	125	25
Am. Gold	100	125	25
Am. Platinum	100	125	25
Am. Palladium	100	125	25
Am. Iridium	100	125	25
Am. Rhodium	100	125	25
Am. Osmium	100	125	25
Am. Selenium	100	125	25
Am. Tellurium	100	125	25
Am. Vanadium	100	125	25
Am. Zirconium	100	125	25
Am. Niobium	100	125	25
Am. Manganese	100	125	25
Am. Chromium	100	125	25
Am. Cobalt	100	125	25
Am. Nickel	100	125	25
Am. Zinc	100	125	25
Am. Iron	100	125	25
Am. Steel	100	125	25
Am. Copper	100	125	25
Am. Lead	100	125	25
Am. Tin	100	125	25
Am. Silver	100	125	25
Am. Gold	100	125	25
Am. Platinum	100	125	25
Am. Palladium	100	125	25
Am. Iridium	100	125	25
Am. Rhodium	100	125	25
Am. Osmium	100	125	25
Am. Selenium	100	125	25
Am. Tellurium	100	125	25
Am. Vanadium	100	125	25
Am. Zirconium	100	125	25
Am. Niobium	100	125	25
Am. Manganese	100	125	25
Am. Chromium	100	125	25
Am. Cobalt	100	125	25
Am. Nickel	100	125	25

Not listed on Stock Exchange.

War stocks in the outside market were held by the peace proposal. Submarine Boat closed at 35 and Midvale Steel closed at 44. Magna Copper, which recently experienced a sharp rise, fell about 4 points.

There was a suggestion of peace in the foreign exchange market, which usually reflects events of this kind.

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